

Message Text

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ORIGIN DOE-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, MNUC, JA, KS, TW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TRANSPORTATION AND
STORAGE STUDY TEAM

REF: STATE 237394

1. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (FORMERLY ERDA)
HAS CONTRACTED WITH BOEING ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION
(BEC), A DIVISION OF THE BOEING COMPANY, AND ITS SUBCON-
TRACTORS, INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ASSOCIATES LIMITED (IEAL)
AND THE FIRM, DOUB, PURCELL, MUNTZING & HANSEN, TO CONDUCT
A STUDY OF THE ISSUES AND OPTIONS IN ESTABLISHING CENTRAL-
IZED SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE
SYSTEM(S). THE PURPOSE IS TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY
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AND POSSIBLE INTEREST IN SUCH SYSTEM(S).

THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY INCLUDES TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC,
FINANCIAL, REGULATORY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS.
OPTIONS WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR CONSIDERATION REFLECTING
DIFFERING MODES OF OPERATION, SITING, OWNERSHIP, TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS, AND CONTROL, WITH

EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING REALISTIC OPTIONS WHICH ARE OPERATIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY VIABLE AND HAVE THE BROADEST BASE OF PROSPECTIVE SUPPORT BY POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN

PLANNING, FINANCING, AND USING SUCH SYSTEMS.

THE STUDY IS SCHEDULED TO ASSESS BY EARLY 1978 AN INDICATION OF POSSIBLE INTEREST ON THE PART OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY AND A FINAL REPORT BY MID-1978 DEFINING OPTIONS AND PROSPECTIVE SUPPORT.

2. IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY, VISITS HAVE BEEN MADE BY A CONTRACTOR TEAM TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING BOTH TECHNICAL DATA ON SPENT FUEL DISCHARGES, AND INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF THIS MATERIAL, INCLUDING POTENTIAL INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN A MULTINATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL SPENT FUEL STORAGE SYSTEM. THESE VISITS HAVE INCLUDED CONTACTS WITH RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND ELECTRIC UTILITY OFFICIALS IN EACH COUNTRY VISITED. THE STUDY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INFCE AND THE RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE GENERAL FORM TO OTHER INFCE PARTICIPANTS.

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3. WE HAVE NOT VIEWED CANADA AS A POTENTIAL PARTICIPANT IN THE STUDY WHICH HAS BEEN AIMED AT COUNTRIES WITH LWR FUEL WHICH HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATING ITS REPROCESSING. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT CANADA HAS PRACTICED ONCE THROUGH FUEL CYCLE AND HAS CONTEMPLATED EXTENDED STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL FROM OUTSET OF THEIR PROGRAM, TAKES CANADIAN EXPERIENCE AND VIEWS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH THIS STUDY. WE ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE, POLICIES, AND PLANS ON SPENT FUEL STORAGE, AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCE AND VIEWS HELD BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH OPERATE OR HAVE PURCHASED CANDU REACTORS. OUR INTEREST EXTENDS TO CANADIAN VIEWS ON POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN MULTINATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL SCHEMES FOR SPENT FUEL STORAGE.

4. TO ENABLE EXPLORATION OF THESE AREAS UNDER THE CONTRACT DESCRIBED ABOVE, UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL OF AECL, AECB, AND ONTARIO HYDRO ON JANUARY 19 AND 20, WITH OTTAWA MEETINGS PREFERABLY ON THE 19TH. MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS ON 19TH ALSO DESIRABLE. CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE

MYRON B. KRATZER OF IEAL, AND ABRAHAM KRIGER OF BOEING.
EMBASSY AND CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD UNDERSTAND
THAT STUDY IS TECHNICAL EFFORT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY DOE
CONTRACTORS, AND DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS

PART OF USG/GOC GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE ON
NUCLEAR ISSUES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE OF VISIT SCHEDULE. CHRISTOPHER

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